

AGENDA
ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To be held virtually via MS Teams
Wednesday May 28, 2025 at 5:00 PM

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. April 23, 2025

B. COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

1. CHAIRS REMARKS

C. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: June 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Colton Whittaker at 250-475-5494 ext. 3642 or colton.whittaker@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
April 23, 2025 at 5:01 PM

In Attendance: Councillor Westhaver (Chair), Colin Newell, James Hesser, Mark Leiren-Young (5:07 p.m.), Pamela Carroll, Peter Quinn (5:04 p.m.)
Regrets: Isak Serhan and Kristen Kay
Guests: Belinda Macey, Program Coordinator, Victoria Child Care Resource & Referral Program; Bob Yates, Research Support to Child Care Resource & Referral Centre
Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Molly Rose, Agriculture and Food Security Planner; Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by C. Newell and Seconded by P. Carroll: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee held March 26, 2025, be adopted as circulated."

RESULT: Carried 5 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Carroll, Hesser, Quinn, Westhaver, Newell

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Leiren-Young

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair welcomed committee members, and the following was noted:

- Introductions were made.

THE CHILD CARE SYSTEM IN SAANICH - THE MUNICIPAL ROLE AND THE NEED FOR POLICY FRAMEWORK AND AN ACTION PLAN

The representatives from Victoria Child Care Resource and Referral Program gave a presentation on the Childcare System in Saanich (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Each summer, there is an open federal funding application available for municipalities, non-profits, indigenous organizations, and others to apply for support to create or renovate childcare spaces.
- The City of Burnaby recently allocated \$3.5 million to renovate a space in a community centre for a childcare facility. \$2.28 million of this was funded through a Provincial grant.
- Families across the Capital Regional District (CRD) are actively searching for childcare, as access remains limited.
- The \$10 a day childcare program is available only in licensed group care settings. Many families are specifically seeking this more affordable option.
- The Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) helps improve affordability by providing funding to eligible, licensed childcare providers to reduce and stabilize monthly fees.
- Most childcare centres participate in the CCFRI. When combined with families receiving the

Affordable Child Care Benefit, some parents are paying around \$10 per day for childcare, without utilizing the \$10 a day childcare program.

- It is often difficult for families to determine which centres offer \$10 a day childcare, as there is no economic assessment included in the application process for becoming a \$10 a day provider.
- Workplace childcare centres are especially beneficial for parents, particularly mothers returning to work.
- Locating childcare centres in or near retirement homes offers a unique opportunity to create bonds among different generations.
- In some cases, grandparents have assumed legal custody of their grandchildren due to parents not being able to attain childcare.
- The City of Victoria conducted a comprehensive childcare study in 2020, developed a licensing package for prospective providers, and has continued to advance this work.
- Responsibility for childcare falls to individual municipalities as there is currently no inter-municipal committee addressing childcare at a regional level.

MOVED by P. Quinn and Seconded by M. Leiren-Young: “That the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee recommend that Council work in collaboration with other community partners to develop a three to five year plan that will increase the supply of childcare spaces in the municipality.”

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Carroll, Hesser, Leiren-Young, Quinn, Westhaver, Newell

OPPOSED: None

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by P. Carroll: “That the meeting be adjourned.”

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Carroll, Hesser, Leiren-Young, Quinn, Westhaver, Newell

OPPOSED: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK